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Enforcement Status Report: Board Authorizes Court Action Against Eight Delinquent Campaign Committees

MADISON, WI – The Wisconsin Government Accountability Board (G.A.B.) has announced that it will file lawsuits against eight candidates for the Legislature alleged to have failed to file campaign finance reports which were due on February 2nd under Wisconsin law. The lawsuits will request court orders to require immediate filing of the reports as well as forfeitures based on the delays in filing.

The G.A.B. has not received the required campaign finance reports from four incumbent legislators and from four unsuccessful candidates. At its meeting of June 22, 2009, the Board directed its staff to initiate legal action. The candidates who have not filed reports and their legislative districts, according to the Board's records are:

Incumbents

Rep. Tamara Grigsby (D)	18 th Assembly District
Rep. Scott Newcomer (R)	33 rd Assembly District
Rep. Christine Sinicki (D)	20 th Assembly District
Rep. Annette Polly Williams (D)	10 th Assembly District

Challengers

Perry Duman (D)	60 th Assembly District
Jess Kufahl (R)	85 th Assembly District
David Nickel (R)	15 th Assembly District
Jason LaSage (R)	24 th Assembly District

“The primary purpose of our campaign finance laws is public disclosure of campaign activity,” said Kennedy. “That goal cannot be accomplished when a candidate fails to file complete finance reports in a timely manner. Our staff has made repeated efforts to obtain voluntary compliance with the filing requirement and unfortunately our only option at this point is to request the help of the courts to enforce the statutes and seek appropriate penalties.”

Wisconsin Statutes Section 11.60 imposes a forfeiture for failure to timely file campaign finance reports of \$500 plus \$50 or one percent of the annual salary of the office sought, whichever is greater, for each day of the delinquency.

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The Government Accountability Board (G.A.B.) is responsible for administration and enforcement of campaign finance, elections, ethics and lobbying laws in Wisconsin. The G.A.B. is made up of six non-partisan, former judges and is supported by an agency of non-partisan staff members.